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## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

FEB 2 5 2004

**LUTHER D. TITCHIAS, Clerk** 

By:

Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

**CIVIL ACTION** 

Plaintiff,

v.

NO. 1:03-CV-3362 -JEC

\$52,784.65 SEIZED FROM BANK OF AMERICA ACCOUNT NUMBER

XXX-XXX-0907,

Defendant.

### ANSWER AND DEFENSES TO COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE

Comes now the Claimant, Shahrzad (Sherry) Moghangard, by and through undersigned counsel, and files this Answer and Defenses to the Complaint for Forfeiture (hereinafter "Complaint") as captioned above, verified on oath under penalty of perjury, and shows this Court the following:

# FIRST DEFENSE

The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

#### **SECOND DEFENSE**

The Complaint fails to state a claim against Claimant's legal and equitable interest in the Defendant Property \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907.

# THIRD DEFENSE

This Complaint, on its face, fails to state probable cause for a legal Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution seizure of the Defendant Property \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907.

#### **FOURTH DEFENSE**

The Defendant Property \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907 was seized in violation of the provisions of the Eighth Amendment.

### FIFTH DEFENSE

Claimant has a legal interest in \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907, as contemplated by 18 USC§983(d).

#### SIXTH DEFENSE

There is no factual or legal basis for the instant seizures because no contraband was found connecting or linking the Claimant to the Defendant Property \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907. Therefore, the property, which is the subject of the instant forfeiture, is unrelated to any alleged illegal activity.

## SEVENTH DEFENSE

Claimant had no basis to believe that any of the illegal activity alleged, would have occurred with the Defendant Property \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907.

#### **EIGHTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff is barred, in whole or in part, from relief since the Defendant Property \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907 was unrelated to any alleged conduct giving rise to forfeiture.

# NINTH DEFENSE

This forfeiture action, in whole or in part, is the fruit of and/or is unlawfully tainted by government misconduct in connection with the use of a grand jury for discovery concerning the pending prosecution in the criminal case, which is the predicate for this forfeiture action.

#### TENTH DEFENSE

Subject to and without waiving the above and foregoing defenses, Claimant responds to the individually enumerated paragraphs of Plaintiff's Complaint as follows:

1.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 1 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

2.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 2 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

3.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 3 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

4.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 4 and therefore denies them.

5.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 5 and therefore denies them.

6.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 6 and therefore denies them.

7.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 7 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

8.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 8 and therefore denies them.

9.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 9 and therefore denies them.

10.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 10 and therefore denies them.

11.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 11 and therefore denies them.

12.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 12 and therefore denies them.

13.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 13 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

14.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 14 and therefore denies them.

15.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 15 and therefore denies them.

16.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 16 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

17.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 17 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

18.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 18 and therefore denies them.

19.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 19 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

20.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 20 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

21.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 21 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

22.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 22 and therefore denies them.

23.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 23 and therefore denies them.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 24 and therefore denies them.

25.

Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph 25 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

26.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 26 and therefore denies them.

27.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 27 and therefore denies them.

28.

Claimant states that she is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 28 and therefore denies them.

#### WHEREFORE, Claimant prays as follows:

- (a) that the Complaint for Forfeiture proceedings be stayed until the conclusion of the criminal case;
- (b) that the Complaint for Forfeiture be dismissed as a matter of law, the forfeiture denied, the seized currencies claimed by Claimant be returned to Claimant, free of all liens and encumbrances;
- (c) for a hearing to determine whether or not the seizure of the subject \$52,784.65 seized from Bank of America Account Number XXX-XXX-0907was lawful;
- (d) that all costs, including attorneys' fees, be awarded to Claimant; and

(e) that Claimant received such other relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

This the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark J. Kadish

Georgia Bar No. 405750

5525 Cross Gate Court Atlanta, Georgia 30327 (404) 252-7799 (404) 252-3040 FAX

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

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Plaintiff, : CIVIL ACTION

CIVILITET

v. : NO. 1:03-CV-3362

\$52,784.65 SEIZED FROM BANK OF AMERICA ACCOUNT NUMBER XXX-XXX-0907,

:

Defendant.

**VERIFICATION** 

Before the undersigned officer, duly authorized by law to administer oaths personally came Shahrzad (Sherry) Moghangard who after first being duly sworn say that Claimant has fully reviewed this Answer and Defenses to Plaintiff's Complaint For Forfeiture, and that same is truthful and accurate in every respect.

Shahrzad (Sherry) Moghangard

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 25 day of February, 2004

Notary Public

My Commission over

My Commission expires:\_\_\_\_

MELISSA KADISH Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia My Commission Expires January 29, 2005

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing "Answer And Defenses To Complaint For Forfeiture" upon the following individuals by hand delivering a copy of same to:

Jenny R. Turner Assistant U.S. Attorney 600 U.S. Courthouse 75 Spring Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303

This 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

Mark J. Kadish